

commending her for her extraordinary selflessness and service.

CONGRATULATING THE MISSION
SHARYLAND RATTLERS VARSITY
SOCCER TEAM

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2012

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Mission Sharyland Rattlers varsity soccer team of Sharyland High School in Sharyland, Texas on winning the UIL Class 5A state boys soccer championship. The Sharyland Rattlers boys' soccer team victoriously ended a long season on Saturday, April 21, 2012, at Birkelbach Field in Georgetown, Texas.

A crowd of more than 750 fans watched the Sharyland Rattlers team win 3–2 in a shootout to defeat Katy Morton Ranch. In their long 31–3–3 winning season, this outstanding boys' soccer team proved that hard work, dedication, and skill are the perfect recipe for champions. These high school soccer players were led to the championship title through the tireless leadership of their Head Coach Reveriano Hernandez. I congratulate the educators and leaders of this superb team. Key players in the team include Most Valuable Player during the Championship game Jesus Olivarez and Jorge Medina, Most Valuable Player Defensive during the Championship game. Parents, faculty, family, friends and former students traveled to the championship game to support and encourage the boys' soccer team. This championship marks an accomplishment and proud occasion for the team, school and those who attended the game to show their support.

Sharyland High School is part of the Sharyland Independent School District. It was Sharyland's first time playing at the UIL state tournament and has now set a pace for winning tradition as the school's first state soccer championship for Sharyland High School. The Sharyland Rattlers have been recognized for setting the area record for 31 (wins) 3 (ties) 3 (loses). With the motivation to bring home the state championship the team devoted 18 hours a week in training and practiced diligently during Christmas and Spring Break.

I am honored to praise the accomplishments of Sharyland, Texas' home team, the Sharyland Rattlers boys' soccer team as the Class 5A boys' soccer state title champions. Congratulations.

GOVERNOR'S AWARD FOR
VOLUNTEERISM

HON. CHELLIE PINGREE

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2012

Ms. PINGREE of Maine. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate those in my State being honored with Governor's Award for Volunteerism. The following Maine people and organizations have showed exemplary commitment to donating their time and energy to help others:

Volunteer of the Year Julia Brown, Service-Learning Practitioner Donna Vigue, Out-

standing National Service Volunteer Elisabeth Lohmueller, Youth Volunteer Julia Brown, Corporate Volunteerism honoree Pratt & Whitney Aircraft, Outstanding School District Sanford, and Outstanding Nonprofit Volunteer Program Trekkers.

In a cynical world that calls us to believe no one does something for nothing, these volunteers and thousands more like them continue to give us hope and belief in each other's goodness.

HONORING KATELYN MOODY

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2012

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I am privileged to interact with some of the brightest students in the 22nd Congressional District who serve on my Congressional Youth Advisory Council. I have gained much by listening to the high school students who are the future of this great Nation. They provide important insight into the concerns of our younger constituents and hopefully get a better sense of the importance of being an active participant in the political process. Many of the students have written short essays on a variety of topics and I am pleased to share these with my House colleagues.

Katelyn Moody is a sophomore at Deer Park High School in Harris County, Texas. Her essay topic is: In your opinion, why is it important to be involved in the political process?

IMPORTANCE OF PARTICIPATION IN THE
POLITICAL PROCESS

In life each person is responsible for finding his or her own happy ending. This also suggests that we walk a path in our life with our happiness. The pursuit of happiness as we have come to phrase it in our own government. Within our pursuit of happiness, we are not only one, we are a unified nation, who has withstood the best of times and the worst of times, who has come to the rescue when no one else will take a stand. A unified nation who is not made of one, but made of many. For our country depends on those who are in pursuit of America's happiness and therefore citizens must stand for what is right and what is just. Our first step to pursue our country, the United States of America's happiness is to step forward and become involved in the political process.

It is of vital importance that each and every person is involved in making decisions for our country. If we are a nation who will stand for nothing, we will fall for anything. The citizens must be the strong hold of our country and hold our ground. For instance being involved in the political process is a citizen's duty and responsibility. Citizens must be aware of current events in the world and how that one situation could impact us locally, nationally, and globally. It is imperative for one to know what is going on in your country for you to be able to form decisions about what is right and what is just. Knowledge is valuable and can reveal to us what is best for our country. If a person isn't involved in our country's political process it shows a lack of interest in what is best for America and its people. If we lose sight of how our country was based on the ability to make choices that benefit our government and its inhabitants, we have lost our patriotism. Our country is only as good as it's citizens collective efforts.

They say character is what you do when no one is watching. From my standpoint, I interpret this as we can't only take part in the political process when it is important to us, but we must take part in the political process at all times because it is important to every American. Americans' beliefs, ethics, morals and values are illuminated through our choices and our political standpoints. Our voices should not be silent echoes ringing through our nation, but should envelop the nation with our prevalent concern. Our voices will be heard, but the choice is ours to speak up. Speaking up shows our character and who we each are and what we believe in. It unveils how we should be constant participants in America's political process. If we all stand together for what we believe in and what are values are, how could our country go wrong? We can't prevail with only some participants, everyone must participate to guarantee our freedoms and our pursuit of happiness.

You see, our founding fathers put forth an insurmountable effort to guarantee our freedom and our pursuit of prosperity. We must ask ourselves, to what extent will our generation rise to protect those same rights for another strong hold, another upcoming generation. We must speak up, show what we stand for, and let the character of America be unveiled. We must not sit like ducks thinking to ourselves, "Oh well, they can handle it, they will surely speak up" because if they don't, our strong hold is no longer and we will show our lack of interest in our political processes which protect freedom and the pursuit of a full and prosperous life. And, without those things we would be left in an abyss of nothingness. It is shown here how important taking part in political processes proves to be and the consequences of not doing so. Remember, the choice is ours to speak up. Americans are responsible for finding our own happiness and to continue pursuing this, no matter the cost.

IN MEMORY OF DELORES A.
PARKS

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2012

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise today to pay tribute to the late Delores A. Parks, a woman who spent her entire life tirelessly caring for her community. Mrs. Parks passed away in her sleep on Sunday, April 15, 2012. She was 77.

The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. once said, "Everybody can be great, because everybody can serve." Mrs. Parks was blessed with many gifts and talents, but her greatness came from her dedication to the community. She is truly a hero of mine. Mrs. Parks was a generous, warmhearted and loving woman who always went the extra mile to support her neighbors.

I know the difference one person can make because I am a witness to the impact of Mrs. Parks' extraordinary career of service to others on the lives of ordinary boys and girls and men and women. There is much wisdom in the ancient proverb that says if you catch a person a fish, you feed him for a day; if you teach a person to fish, you will feed her for a lifetime. Mrs. Parks was a great lady but what makes her truly special is her commitment to serving others altered for the good the trajectory of thousands of lives.